PDS for cooking and illumination only. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000, SKO allocation for distribution under the PDS was reduced every year begining 2001-2002 till 2003-2004, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. There has been no reduction in the allocation of PDS SKO to States/UTs after the financial year 2004-05. Allocations for 2007-2008 have also been maintained at the same level. The quantity of PDS SKO allocated to the State Government of Sikkim in the year 2007-08 is 5582 MT.

Long queue in CGHS dispensaries

847. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the computerization of CGHS allopathic dispensaries in Delhi, the patients particularly the pensioners have been put to extreme hardship as they have to wait for long hours in queues for getting treatment and medicines as most of the doctors are not properly computer trained, leading to serious delays; and

(b) if so, what remedial action is proposed to be taken to tackle this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Doctors of CGHS, Delhi have been provided basic training.

Each dispensary has also been provided with two data entry operators for imparting training and assisting dispensary staff.

Beneficiaries may be facing minor inconvenience due to switch over from manually system to online made of functioning of dispensaries.

Productions of polio vaccine

848. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) by when India is going to achieve self-sufficiency in production of the polio vaccine as Government is vigorously pursuing the polio awareness drive all over the country;

(b) whether we are importing the vaccine; and

(c) if so, from where and what is the progress of the indigenous production of vaccine so that we do not have to rely on the import of the said vaccine for too long?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Office of the DCGI has not received any application concerning indigenous production of the oral polio vaccine. The Indian manufactures are licensed to produce Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) by blending the imported concentrate bulk of OPV (Type I, II and III). The bulk of polio vaccine is imported from outside countries.

The Indian manufacturers that are licensed by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to produce Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and their annual production capacity is as under:

- M/s Panacea Biotech Ltd. New Delhi with annual production capacity of 16000 lakh doses.
- M/s Haffkine Biopharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd. Mumbai having annual production capacity of 12000 lakh doses.
- M/s Bharat Biotech Ltd. Hyderabad having annual production capacity of 7000 lakh doses.

Mouth Cancer and Health Warnings

†849. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that the number of patients suferfing from mouth cancer throughout the world is highest in our country;

(b) whether the World Health Organisation has warned that smoking tobacco is the main cause of mouth cancer and its use should be controlled;

(c) whether several countries of the world print warnings in bold letters and clear words in the form of pictures on different types of packets of tobacco; and

(d) if so, why it is not being printed clearly in our country alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Madam. As per the information furnished by ICMR, the cancer of the oral cavity is highest in Indian registries compared to all registries across the world.

(b) Yes Madam. As per World Health Organization tobacco use in any form is the main cause of mouth cancers. The framework convention on tobacco control has been negotiated and this lays out key demand and supply reduction strategies.

(c) Yes Madam. It is true that several countries such as European countries, Canada, Australia, Thailand etc. print pictorial as well as text messages on tobacco packets.

(d) Section 8 of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 provides for specified health warnings to be displayed on packs of the all tobacco products. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, comprehensive packaging and labeling Rules, 2006 have already been notified. These rules are being further modified and effective date will be announced soon.